[13th November 1922

A.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative; the consideration of the project has been held over pending the final settlement between the Madras Government and the Mysore Darbar in regard to the Mysore (Kannambadi) Krishnarajasagara reservoir.

Specialist for millets.

11-15 a.m.

410 *Q*.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(1) whether a specialist for millets has been appointed; if so, when he was appointed;

(2) whether the specialist is given a station for his work; if not, how his work is now done;

(3) whether the Government are aware that there is a wide complaint that nothing has been done for the dry food-crops; and

(4) whether the Government will give preference to work on dry food-crops, seeing that they are grown on by far the major portion of the cultivated lands in the Presidency and they are the chief staple food of the people?

A.—(1) Yes: on the 25th November 1921.

(2) He has not yet been given a station. As a preliminary to commencing breeding work, the officer has been visiting the most important sorghum areas and has made a detailed examination of the various types of the plant represented in the crops of the local varieties. He is making a further examination of these types in the laboratory.

(3) No complaint has reached the Government.

(4) As the hon. Member is doubtless aware, the special officer to work on millets has been recruited solely with a view to devoting greater attention to the study of the important problems connected with the chief dry food-grains, and proposals for giving the officer a separate station, where he can commence the work on breeding new strains, are under the consideration of Government. It is not a fact that no attention has been paid to the study of dry grains. Work has been and is being done in the circle farms. The hon. Member is also informed that *rice* is the *chief* staple food-crop in the Presidency, being used in all the districts.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Does the hon. the Minister for Development think that *rice* is the *chief* staple food-crop in the Presidency, on account of the fact that it is used in all the districts or on account of the fact that a large number of people use it?"

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I want notice of the question."

The Publicity Bureau.

411 *Q*.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) (*a*) the actual expenditure incurred on account of the Publicity Bureau in the years 1920–21 and 1921–22 under the heads paper, printing and postage; why this expenditure on paper and printing is not generally shown in the budget estimate under the heading "Publicity Bureau";